



THE Lantern

August 2007

Volume 12 Number 8

August 21st MEETING, Tallahassee Antique Car Museum

Barrett Johnson submitted the following: The August 21st meeting will be held at the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum on Mahan Drive just east of the intersection of Capital Circle and Mahan Drive. The meeting will begin with a catered dinner at 6:45 and continue with a regular meeting at 7:30. **August's menu: tossed salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, apple and cherry pies and a drink, all for \$6.50 per person.**

We need as good a body count as possible, so please RSVP to John Sullenberger by Monday, August 20th: he can be reached by telephone at (850) 562-5137 (h) or (850) 544-1870 (c) or via e-mail at sullyjws@aol.com.

Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Recap by John Sullenberger

The 2007 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale went well but was poorly attended. We did have good member attendance. There no major problems and we even managed to find a food vendor. All of the vendors showed up. Most of the vendors did OK and said they would be back next year. The gate this year was 218 compared to last year's 363 (145 less than last year). The 2008 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale is tentatively scheduled for July 26, 2008 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in building #2.

Thanks to the BBMRA Membership by John Sullenberger

As noted above, the BBMRA did have good member attendance: fifty-one of seventy-six members helped with either the set-up and/or tear down or with layout operations or just showed up to add moral support.

I would like to thank the following members: Jim Amidon, Bill Atkinson, David Barth, William Bell III & his son, Larry Benson, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Ronald Clark, Ray Clyatt, Dick Daniels, Bill Davis, Louis Diven, Jim Duncan, Garth Easton, Eric Ecklund, John Edrington, Beth Edwards, Ray Fielding, Mitchell Green, Milton Grosz III, Joe Haley, Robert Hargrove & Beverly McDonald, Jack Herzog, Barrett Johnson, David Kerns, Dan King, David Knowles, Bob Loehne, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantooth, John Marvin, Bill McCord, Jim McGill, John Meister, Sr, Sam Miller, Robert Moody, Ed Olson, Tom Rice, Paul Richter, Bob Sayes, Paul Schneider, Herman Schol, Ed Schroeder, Sandy Scott, Louis Stokley, John Sullenberger, Bill Thompson, Bob Woodard, Chase & Fred Worrill. Please let me know if I've left anyone off the list. I culled it from the sign-in book and from what I can remember.

Thanks to the Division Coordinators: Garth Easton, (Small Scale), Randy Lombardo (Large Scale) and Sam Miller (HO Scale) for their outstanding work in preparing the layouts for the show. Special thanks to Bob Woodard for bringing and operating his N Scale layout and to Joe Haley for his continued support of the "Time Saver" switching layout.

Minutes of July 2007 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The July 17, 2007 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:40 p.m. in the Antique Car Museum meeting room. Forty-six members were present.

Treasurer's Report: There is \$1,587.75 in the checking account. All expenses for the show have been paid.

Show Report: John Sullenberger reported there are two cancellations but all tables have been paid for. Some other vendors have been added so it balances out. He will be at the fairgrounds on Saturday from 7AM – 7 PM. Layouts must be operational by 10 AM. We still need extension cords. We do not have a food vendor at this time. There will be a book there for all members to sign in. Members do not pay. The Flint River and Wiregrass list will be at the entrance. Have their members sign in. There was a suggestion made for us to get cokes and sell at cost. John said they must be Pepsi products as that is the official drink of the fair. Boy Scouts and their advisors in uniform get in free. John publicly thanked Dan King, Larry Benson, Sandi Scott, David Knowles and (later added Bob Woodward) for their help preparing for the show.

Continued Back Page

Workshop: Making Your Own Open Top Hopper Loads

By Larry Benson



Occasionally, I want to load my N Scale open top hoppers with different material appropriate to the industry I'm currently servicing or the mood I happen to be in or just for a change of scenes. I like to haul coal to my coaling station one day and ballast to a new track site the next. Perhaps my sand pit needs replenishing.

You can do the same thing by making your own hopper loads rather than buying them at a hobby shop or from an internet store. You can also save money because a lot of loads can be made from small bags of different material. No matter what scale you model or the length of your hoppers, the following steps are essentially the same.

Before you begin, decide what kinds of loads are appropriate for your layout taking into consideration such things as location, era and motive power. For example, if your layout features a steel mill, then a load of cut up scrap metal would be fitting. If you're pulling your consists during the era when steam locomotives dominated our railroads, or if you have a coal mine on your layout, a drag of hoppers loaded with coal would be appropriate. Likewise, hoppers filled with sand for "sanding" locomotives will add interest and variety to your layout as will hopper loads of ballast for a new section of track.



Step One: Making a False Bottom:

Like me, you probably won't want to fill your hoppers completely from bottom to top. To fill only the very top lip and also to keep the inside clean while saving on the amount of load material, use your hobby knife to cut a cardboard insert to fit inside your hopper. Be sure to cut slots on each side so the insert will slide down over the triangular side supports on the inside.



For my N-Scale hoppers, I design "false bottom" inserts to fit about a quarter of an inch below the top edge. While the cardboard needs to fit snugly, it shouldn't be so tight it bows up on either end or in the middle. Make sure the tolerance is such that it's easy to remove. For this step, I use cardboard about the weight and thickness of backing on writing pads.

Step Two: Installing Plastic Lining:

Once the cardboard insert is fitted, remove it and line the inside of your hopper with plastic wrap, making sure to leave plenty of access overhanging the sides. You'll see why this is advisable in Step Three. Here, I use plastic wrap with some "clinging" qualities, but not so much it adheres to the sides of my hopper.



Carefully reinsert the false cardboard bottom **over** the plastic wrap taking care not to puncture the plastic as you mold it to the sides and ends of your hopper.

Step Three: Loading:

I keep a supply of old prescription pill bottles on hand because they make ideal containers and "pitchers." In the illustrated example (right), I filled one of these used pill bottles with ballast and slowly poured it into my hopper. To look more prototypical, you might want to form a slight crown running lengthwise down the middle. Two or three "camel humps" would look good, too. The surplus plastic wrap left around the edges not only catches the overflow from your pour, but it also protects the surface you're working on during the next step.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Step Four: Securing the Load:

Dampen your load by spraying it with “wet water”. Wet water is made by adding a couple drops of rubbing alcohol or liquid dishwasher soap to tap water. Pre-wetting keeps the load from shifting and running over the sides while you’re applying glue. Make a fifty-fifty mixture of white glue and water. Slowly “dribble” the mix over your hopper load, soaking it thoroughly. I generally use an eyedropper for dispensing glue, but, once again, a used pill bottle works just as well for mixing and pouring.

Once the glue has dried for a couple of days, remove the finished load by grasping both sides of the plastic and gently lifting it up. Carefully peel the plastic wrap from the cardboard bottom and if it still feels damp, put it upside down in a safe place until it’s completely dried out.

Put the load back into your hopper, re-rail it on your layout, add it to a consist and have fun!



Notes:

Lyn Heath: Lyn’s foot surgery on Friday, July 20th successfully removed a benign tumor. She has recovered nicely and wants to thank all of the members who inquired about her well being. She hopes to be able to attend the August meeting.

Sandy Scott: Sandy had open-heart surgery on Monday, August 13th. She had a leaky heart valve replaced with a titanium heart valve. The surgery went off as planned and the doctor informed the family that her remaining heart valves were in great shape. She will be released from the hospital next Sunday or Monday. An update will be given at next Tuesday’s meeting.

Westminster & Oaks Model Railroad Open House – August 25th – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: All aboard! The Westminster & Oaks model train group is having an open house on Saturday, August 25th to unveil their new W&O Railroad sign. The layout is on the lower level of the Fitness Center. Directions: turn left onto Meandering Way from Dempsey Mayo Road; park at and enter the Perry Center (the 2nd multi-story building on the left) and follow the signs.

17th Annual Wiregrass Model Railroad Show and Sale – Saturday and Sunday September 15th & 16th, Dothan, Alabama: National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds - More than 150 tables of model railroad equipment and supplies offered by vendors from throughout the Southeast. Several large operating model railroad layouts will be on display. There will be door prizes and on-site concessions. The show is the weekend before the September meeting; if you’re looking to carpool, now would be a good time to set one up. Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm.

Remember, the BBMRA has a reciprocal agreement with Wiregrass, inform them you are with the BBMRA for free entry.

Good of the Group Comments: Barrett passed around micro brushes that were designed for dentistry purposes but work very well for modelers, especially in small places. They can be used to apply glue or paint and the tips even bend at the tip for hard to get to spaces.

Dan King announced that if you go to the ACL/SAL Historical Society website, there is a link on modeling with several pictures and a lot of valuable tips on weathering and other subjects. There are even blueprints of cars. It is updated quarterly.

Dan King also announced that he discovered during the recent meeting of the ACL/SAL Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia that the dispatched operation that is presently in Jacksonville will decentralize. Dispatchers will then be in various locations in the field still directing traffic.

Bob Loehne mentioned that members had asked him about the ACL/SAL video. They are now available and for sale for anyone interested and he would have these at the show.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth announced that the N-Scalers would meet after the meeting to discuss set up for the show. He also announced that he had heard from Evan Hughes and he was doing fine after having a stint put in. He says hello to everyone.

HO Scale: Sam Miller said we would meet at the storage facility at about 12:30. Jim and John have a truck that will transport the pieces to the fairgrounds. Setup would be at 1:30.

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo reported that they are still working on Thomas the Train.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: (John Anthamatten submitted this report in writing after the meeting and wanted it in the minutes): The storage containers for the steam loco are in place but do not contain the locomotive just yet. We are using it for tool storage now. The walking/jogging path in the park of just over a mile in length is paved. 15 warm-up stations have been donated and will be in place along the path in a few weeks. The service building is closed in and concrete floor poured. It includes imbedded rail in the floor. The building is about 40 X 90 feet. The lighting and a mezzanine for storage come next. The piling for the alternate part of the walking trail thru the wetland is in place and we are hoping for some help on that from the young men living at the Liberty Wilderness camp. The outdoor electrical expansion is complete. The next major task will be getting some rail on the ground and the 400 foot trestle underway. We may beg for some help on that part of the project. We also have to complete the station/museum near the Liberty Civic Center, the children's playground and several minor projects.

Program: Barrett provided some tips on photographic trains. He demonstrated how to even use photographs as sky boards for your model railroad. He also provided some great tips and advice concerning digital photography and cameras. Several shared their experiences and Barrett answered many questions. The presentation was enjoyed by all.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 in the Antique Car Museum meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary (taken and transcribed by David Brazell). THANKS AGAIN DAVID!!

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary on September 22nd

The Big Bend Model Railroad Club (BBMRC) held its first meeting on September 15, 1987. The BBMRC was organized for the purpose of promoting and preserving model railroad activities for the benefit of the general public and the members of the Club and for the purpose of promoting and preserving historical material and information pertaining to railroad transportation. The BBMRC incorporated and was chartered as "The Big Bend Model Railroad Association, Inc." (BBMRA) on June 28, 1990. The organization's unofficial motto is: "Run Trains!"

On Saturday, September 22nd the BBMRA will hold a whistle stop layout tour and for those who wish to participate a dinner at the Spring Creek Restaurant. Like last year's tour the "2007 Whistle Stop Tour" will overlap its stops. This year's Stops are listed below; the order has yet to be finalized. Allow at enough drive time between stops as the eight stops are scattered all over Leon and Wakulla Counties. Dinner at Spring Creek is optional and is to be paid for by each diner.

BBMRA Live Steamers	G Scale	Drew Hackmeyer	Sn3 Scale
Bill Thompson	HO Scale	Eric Ecklund	G Scale
Bobby Woodard	HO Scale	Roy Mantooth	HO Scale
Dick Daniels	N Scale	Westminster Oaks	N Scale

Last stop: Spring Creek Restaurant